

<p><b>BUFFALO, NEW YORK</b>  <b>BUFFALO &amp; ERIE COUNTY WORKFORCE</b>  <b>DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM</b>  2001-2002 Grant Amount: <b>\$8 Million</b></p>	<p><b>Buffalo and Erie County</b>  <b>Workforce Development Consortium</b>  77 Goodell Street, Buffalo, New York 14203  Tel: (716) 856-JOBS; Fax: (716) 856-5680  Project Director, Felicia Beard: <a href="mailto:fbeard@wdcinc.org">fbeard@wdcinc.org</a>  Web site: <a href="http://www.yobuffalo.org">http://www.yobuffalo.org</a></p>
<p><b>Mission and Vision</b></p> <p>To increase the educational attainment and employability of FEC youth by providing direct access to opportunities for personal growth, education and training, career development, employment, sports and recreation in a safe and nurturing environment.</p>	<p><b>Program Overview</b></p> <p>YO! Buffalo serves youth 14-21 who live in Buffalo's Lower West Side, East Side, and the area just south of Downtown. YO! Buffalo is a collaborative effort between community agencies, schools, employers, youth, parents, and faith based organizations. YO! Buffalo will offer youth career planning, counseling, and educational and leadership development, skills training and job placement, and a range of recreational and cultural activities.</p>
<p><b>HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly 60 youth have successfully completed Career Exploration, a three-day workshop to introduce members to a range of career and training opportunities. As a result of the workshop, 40 youth have moved on to other education and training activities, including short term occupational skills training, employment/internship and preparation for the GED exam.</li> <li>More than 170 employers are working with the program to provide more than 440 youth with a job, internship, or paid work experience. Participating area employers include: Children's Hospital, Deaconess Health Care Facility Waterfront Health Care Facility (part of Kaleida Health Network); Waterfront Health Care Facility, DDM Direct Marketing, Sharpy Upholstering and D&amp;R Automotive Restyling. Client Logic has hired five members who recently completed A+ Certification.</li> <li>Partnership with faith-based organizations to help in recruiting youth, especially those out-of-school.</li> <li>Collaborations with WIA One-Stop system to provide summer of 2002 summer employment opportunities for 250 YO! Members.</li> <li>Youth Appreciation Dinner, held March 15, 2002, recognized nearly 100 youth who volunteered in various community projects throughout the City of Buffalo.</li> </ul> <p><b>KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Boy Scouts of America</b> Leadership Exploration Program</li> <li><b>Hispanics United of Buffalo</b>-Provides intensive mentoring education program and a responsible parent program</li> <li><b>Henkels &amp; McCoy Techbridge</b> Academic Enhancement Program-provide youth the opportunity to build their own computer and allows them to attend a one week leadership camp.</li> <li><b>Buffalo Public Schools</b>-Alternative High School: Alternative High School Equivalency Preparation Program (AHSEPP) sites are located at each of the two YO! Centers for youth 16-18 years of age. To date 64 youth have been enrolled in the Alternative High School, 7 have received their GED. In the Catholic Charities GED program 68 have been enrolled and 2 have received their GED.</li> <li><b>Erie 1 BOCES</b>-Provides seven occupational skills training programs for out of school youth, ages 17-21, in areas that employers have identified a need for skilled workers (e.g., A+ Computer Repair, Customer service, Item Processing, CNA, Electrical/Mechanical assembly)</li> </ul>	

